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Dr. Alexander G. Bearn
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Dear Alex:

I have now your letter of March 15th referring to your new lecture series and specifically inviting me to speak on February 5. As far as I know that date is unencumbered and I hasten to mark it on my calendar. I am sure you will understand that unforeseeable circumstances between now and say the 1st of October might oblige me to ask for a renegotiation of the date, since I do not yet have a good feel for the temporal rhythm at The Rockefeller University.

I also hope you will let me know that I have some leeway of time in preparing a title and choosing a subject. While my inclinations for an interdisciplinary perspective would be to speak on some policy problem, I might be tempted to look at something that was indeed a bit closer to a humanistic critique, closer to some of the things that June Goodfield is interested in. It is really very hard for me to know what would best suit my mood after what will be a rather critical transition during the next few months.

I do have some reservations about the publishability of my remarks and I hope you do not put me in a position where my guilt-anxieties are amplified by my being the bottleneck for an otherwise admirable program.

While, of course, I welcome a select invitation of this kind, I hope that there will also be as many more informal opportunities for me to relate to the educational programs of your school. The catch is, of course, the obvious difficulty that I will face in keeping abreast of the advances in my own scientific speciality, but given a realistic account of that and of other demands on my time I am sure that there may still be some creditable opportunities.